

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

DHA-02 /073 W

----- 071595

R 251700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7561

UNCLAS MANAGUA 2898

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SOMOZA HOSTS PUBLIC TESTIMONIAL TO AMB SHELTON

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (EARTH-QUAKE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION ORGAN), GAVE AMBASSADOR UNPRECEDENTED TESTIMONIAL RECEPTION AT NATIONAL PALACE JULY 23 IN RECOGNITION OF HIS LEADERSHIP OF US RELIEF EFFORTS. DESPITE TORRENTIAL RAIN ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED WELL-PUBLICIZED FESTIVITIES WHICH WERE DIVIDED INTO INNER GROUP OF SEVERAL HUNDRED GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONAGES WHO ASSEMBLED IN SECOND FLOOR RECEPTION ROOM TO WITNESS EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES; AND LARGER GROUP WHICH FILLED BOTTOM FLOOR AND WHICH CELEBRATED OCCASION IN RELAXED STYLE WITH DANCING AND BEER DRINKING. SEGREGATION OF AUDIENCES ACCOUNTED FOR BY SECURITY IN AND AROUND PALACE, (SEAT OF NICARAGUAN LEGISLATURE AND TWO MINISTRIES) WHICH WAS TIGHTEST SEEN RECENTLY.

2. SOMOZA LAUDED AMBASSADOR'S ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE, DECLARING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD SEEMED LIKE A NICARAGUAN IN HIS SYMPATHY  
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WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE VICTIMS "ROLLING UP HIS

SLEEVES, HE HELPED TO HEAL THE SICK AND RECOVER THE DEAD...DAY AFTER DAY, WITH NO SIGN OF FATIGUE, HE WENT ABOUT HIS CHRISTIAN MISSION." SOMOZA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CEREMONY THAT NIGHT WAS AN UNUSUAL HOMAGE TO A FOREIGN DIGNITARY, BUT STATED IT WAS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY NATURE OF AMBASSADOR'S EFFORT. FOR THIS REASON, HE WANTED TO GO BEYOND THE USUAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PLEASANTRIES AND MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT PAYING TRIBUTE AS LEADER OF THE STATE, BUT AS REPRESENTATIVE OF A GRATEFUL NATION. SOMOZA GRACIOUSLY CONCLUDED THAT HIS OWN PERSONAL REGARDS DID NOT ENTER INTO EVENT THAT NIGHT, BUT THAT HIS WISHES WOULD GO WITH AMBASSADOR AND MRS. SHELTON WHEREVER THEY WENT.

3. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED BY PRAISING HEROIC EFFORTS OF NICARAGUAN PEOPLE TO REBUILD MANAGUA AND LEADERSHIP, STAMINA, AND FORESIGHT OF GENERAL SOMOZA WHO PROVIDED THE INSPIRATION FOR THE TASK. NOTING THAT THE TRAGEDY AND ITS AFTERMATH DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH OF THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THESE BONDS WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH THE YEARS. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT NICARAGUANS AND AMERICANS WOULD BE FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY WERE SIMILAR IN THAT ALTHOUGH THEY ARE BUSY AND INDUSTRIOUS, BOTH HAVE TIME FOR THE REGARD OF INDIVIDUALS. HE STATED THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS BASED UPON MUTUAL RESPECT, ADMIRATION AND REGARD FOR THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

4. EVENT WAS GIVEN TREMENDOUS COVERAGE IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA. SOMOZA-OWNED NOVEDADES DEVOTED SPECIAL WRAP-AROUND SUPPLEMENT TO EVENT, WHILE EVEN OPPOSITON LA PRENSA CARRIED UNCLASSIFIED

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DETAILED, IF SOMEWHAT SOUR, CHRONICLE OF FESTIVITIES.

FYI: TEXT OF SPEECHES AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS SENT USIA IN USIAC MANAGUA 2882. END FYI.  
SHELTON

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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